

Kansas State Fire Marshal – Fire Prevention Division

References (s): K.S.A. 74-7001; 74-7003; 74-7038

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FIRE FACT 011 – PROFESSIONAL DESIGN

WHEN DO I NEED TO GET AN ENGINEER OR AN ARCHITECT?

The law requires a Kansas licensed architect or engineer to design projects and systems meeting specific criteria in the State of Kansas.

The services of a Kansas licensed architect are required when:

- Designing new buildings (Excluding single family dwellings & farm buildings)
- Designing changes to existing buildings which affect structural components
- Designing changes to existing buildings which affect the fire resistive qualities of the structure

A Kansas licensed professional engineer is required when:

- Design or modification of fire detection
- Design or modification of automatic sprinkler system
- Design or modification of automatic smoke detectors system
- Design or modification of flammable gas detection systems
- Design or modification of liquefied petroleum gas systems

The involvement of an architect or engineer in the design stage reduces the chance that a safety related code violation will be identified during construction and also reduces the delay and expense of correcting any safety problems before an occupancy permit can be granted.

Before hiring a Kansas licensed architect or engineer be sure you do some research and ask some important questions such as:

- 1.) Are they familiar with K.A.R 22-1-7 regarding code footprint submittals?
- 2.) Are they designing to the editions adopted by the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office?
- 3.) What are their timelines for acceptance?
- 4.) Who do they hire to do the construction work?
- 5.) What is their construction warranty?